

**Insights into the Lives of  
William Henry and Sarah Elizabeth Dodge**



**Little Harbour, Trinity Bay, NL.**



**Dodge Coat of Arms**

## **Dedication**

This short story, primarily about Mom and Pop, is dedicated to the grandchildren and great-grandchildren in memory of the late beloved William Henry and Sarah Elizabeth Dodge, affectionately known as Poppy and Mommy Dodge.

*They that go down to the sea in ships, that do business in great waters;  
These see the works of the LORD, and his wonders in the deep." Psalm 107:23-24 KJV*

*Winston Dodge*

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## Looking into the past.

### A Winter's Day

It was cold outside on a stormy winter morning in December in the early 1950's. Snow was blowing around, with Jack Frost nipping at your nose and ears. Who wants to get up on a day like that? Not me, so I rolled over and stayed under the heavy blankets and quilts until I heard my mother yell out, "Get up! Breakfast is ready." My brother Melvin and I jumped out of bed, quickly put on our clothes and ran down stairs. It was so good to come into the warm kitchen.

Pop (as he was called by all his children) was up very early and had lit the fire in the old Ensign Stove. The piping was red hot. At that time, we did not have a brick chimney. In these days, we didn't have central heating, television, or laptops. No running water, indoor plumbing, electricity, or refrigerators. In the winter everything froze anyway. The picture of the Ensign stove shown to the right isn't exactly like ours, but it is similar. We weren't accustomed to turning up the thermostat. Got cold? Put in another junk of wood.



A few years later, Mom had a modern range, a Fawcett Corvette. (pictured to the left) This one is similar to the one we had. It was beautiful and had a water tank on the right side. The water was kept hot while the fire burned. On the top was a warmer, to keep food ready for serving once it was cooked. There was a timer and a special place even for the salt and pepper shakers.

We had a hearty breakfast, porridge and toast, which mom toasted on top of the stove. There was always plenty of home made jam.

Before heading off to school on foot, there were chores to be done, If it snowed, we had to clear a path to the clothes line, and to the barn where we kept the horse. Then off to the woodshed, to fill the woodbox with wood for the stove before we left. Maybe, just maybe if we forgot to fill the water barrel last night, we had to do it this morning. When our chores were finished, off to school we ran, hoping that the school was nice and warm.



At school, we had an old potbelly stove. (See left picture) That too was red hot, because when the fire got burning, we put in coal. It was a two room school from Primer to Grade Eleven. Later they built another room. There were two things at school; one we disliked and the other we loved. We were given a bottle of Cod Liver Oil every now and then to drink. We hated the taste of that. The thing we loved and couldn't wait for was a cup of cocoamalt. This was given to us at recess time. The teacher would boil the kettle and pour us a cup full. It was hot with a rich chocolate flavour and tasted delicious on a cold morning. To improve school children's diet, the government gave out milk, cocomalt and Cod Liver Oil to all students.

School finished at 4:00 pm, and no matter what the weather was like, we walked home again. Then it was time to get started with after school chores. One of us made splits (kindling) while the other would cleave the wood and fill the wood box. Water had to be drawn and the barrel filled. The horse was fed and given water. The horse's stall was cleaned and the manure shovelled to the outside. Then we were free to go down on the harbour ice to skate, with a pair of skates, strapped to our boots. Sometimes we played hockey. Rocks would be the goal posts, a crooked birch stick for the hockey stick. We had small birch nuggets for the pucks. Sometimes when we would shoot the puck, it would go about half a mile down the harbour.

After a little while we would be called for supper and then studying. We learned our lessons at the kitchen table with an Aladdin lamp hanging from the ceiling or a small kerosene lamp. While in the higher grades, we studied on our own, because Mom and Pop only had Grade six, so they couldn't help. No cell phones, texting or internet. However, we had a whale of a time.

Living in Little Heart's Ease was an interesting experience. We didn't realize we were isolated. In saying this, if we needed to get to Come By Chance to visit the hospital, the only way out was to get to Hillview. We went by boat in the summer and in the winter we either walked or went by horse and sleigh. Sometimes in the winter, we were able to go by boat provided there was no ice in the bay. Once in Hillview, we took a short drive by taxi to the hospital. If we were to walk by road, it would be about 18 miles or 29 Kms. To go to St. John's, we had to catch the train at Northern Bight Station.

## A Summer's Day

In the summer of 1957, Pop was fishing at home. He would leave early in the morning and go out to his cod traps. He may have had 3 traps out to catch fish. I was about 16 and Melvin about 14 years old. We did some chores around the house, brought water to fill the barrel in case Mom was going to wash clothes.

By 10:00 to 11:00 am, Pop would be in from the traps, maybe with a boat full of fish. They came in for a lunch. After eating, Pop, Jonah and Eric went back to split and salt the fish. One would cut the throat and gut the fish, another would split it, taking out the sound bone (center bone). They put the fish in a tub of water to wash. Sometimes I would help. I put the fish in a wheel barrow and took it into the stage, the building where we stored fish and the nets. Pop then salted it. This process continued until all the fish were cleaned and salted.

We saved the heads of the cod, (cod heads) and cut out the tongues. Melvin and I took them home for mom to fry for supper. Sometimes we sold them. We got 25 to 50 cents a pound and that was our spending money.

At night we went over to Jonah's place, where he had a little shop. In the evenings he opened it up as a snack bar. He sold chips, coke, bars and candies. Since Jonah had a diesel engine with a generator, he could light up his house, and the snack bar. He had a juke box where we played a song for 5 cents. The songs were mostly country and western. I can almost hear Johnny Cash singing now, "Because you're mine I walk the line." Melvin and I peeled and cut up potatoes to make French fries. We fried them in lard or just plain old fat. It didn't do our cholesterol any good but they sure tasted great. Jonah had a TV in the snack bar with a wire going to an antenna up on the hill. Every Saturday night, wrestling was on CJON, the only channel we had. The picture was great unless the winds blew and turned the pole. Then all we got was a "snow storm." Remember? Everyone was charged 5 cents to come in and watch TV. The place would be blocked. Melvin and I looked after things. We didn't get paid, but we would get a plate of fries, maybe a bottle of drink and see wrestling for free. If for some reason Jonah's TV wasn't working, we either went down to the Gooseberry Cove store or up to Hodges Cove to Smith's place.

Some afternoons we rowed around the harbour in our punt (small row boat.) to see if we could get a lobster. In the evenings, we went down on the wharf and tried to catch conners. They were a bottom-feeding fish around the wharves and stages. They were very sly. That is why we say in Newfoundland, 'as sly as a conner'. Their proper name is 'blue perch'. There were lots of other things to do to spend the evening. A favourite meeting place was at the big rock near the school.

Often the older boys or young men would tell ghost stories and frighten the daylights out of the younger ones, especially when some of them had to walk home alone afterward. There was one game we played called "Uncle Neddy". Someone would have a long pole and they would hide out while all the boys would go and hide within the area. Then when everyone was well hidden they would make some sort of a noise, that would send "Uncle Neddy" in search of the boys. We hid behind trees, up in the trees, anywhere we thought he couldn't find us. When he spotted someone he would swing the pole, not really hard but enough to know that you were caught. Then you were Uncle Neddy. We went home sometimes with a sore backside from a smack from that stick.

The older young men and girls sometimes went to someone's shed, and lit the stove. They would have a large pot and everyone brought something to cook a Jiggs Dinner or as we would say, Salt Beef and Cabbage. That is what we called a Newfie Scoff. What a Scoff it was! Sometimes, Melvin and I would go to Jonah's store and buy a pound of bologna. We would come home and of course, Mom was still up and she would fry it for us. I remember one time, after we had electricity, we were up watching TV. Before too long, as usual we fell asleep. Mom quietly came down the stairs and turned the TV off the channel and of course nothing was on. We only had one channel. Then she would call us. We would wake up thinking it was really late and the TV was off for the night. Naturally we turned it off and went to bed. It took us a while before we realized what she was doing. Mom always had tricks up her sleeve and fooled us many times.

# Little Heart's Ease

Little Hearts Ease is a harbour of several coves. It is nestled within Southwest Arm, Trinity Bay, Newfoundland, Canada. About 1612 it was referred to as "Hearts Ease" by Governor John Guy of Cupids, as did Sir Richard Whitbourne, Governor of Renewals. It was known for its fishing activity and has a very secure harbour for schooners. Today long-liners and draggers still enjoy its protection. Little Hearts Ease was one of the first harbours known to the colonists who arrived from Poole, England during the 1600's.

At the time that I was living there, there were 5 churches, United Church, Pentecostal, Roman Catholic, Anglican and The Salvation Army. The Salvation Army, Pentecostal and United Church held services every Sunday but the Roman Catholic and Anglican were visited occasionally by their respective clergy. We all attended 'The Times', social events which were held by The Salvation Army and the United Church for fund raising. As far as I can remember, a bowl of soup, piece of pie and a cup of tea was about 25 cents. They often served home made ice cream for 5 cents a dish. What a treat!

Little Heart's Ease has its uniqueness. It really has suburbs, seven of them.

## 1. On the point lived:

- The Drodges
- The Martins

## 2. Up in the Bottom:

- The Stringers
- The Veys
- The Shaws

## 3. Squid Holes:

- The Shaws
- The Whalens
- The Martins
- The Staceys
- The Peddles
- The Kings
- The Chaulks

## 4. Lower Side:

- The Strowbridges
- The Dodges
- The Jacobs
- The Myles

## 5. Down around the Pond:

- The Smiths
- The Spurrells

## 6. Little Harbour:

- The Dodges
- The Stringers
- The Prices
- The Norrises
- The Strongs
- The Peddles
- The Bensons
- The Jacobs

## 7. Down The Bottom:

- The Dodges

- The Drodges
- The Peddles

Local business people, George Strong, Clarabelle Dodge and Clarabelle Drodge owned and operated grocery and general stores. The Co-op Store also operated for a number of years. There was another small one on the Point owned by Solomon Drodge. There was a Post Office operating usually attached to a family home. We received the mail weekly. Supplies of fresh meat and other foods, including baked goods were delivered to the stores by boat. I especially liked the pound cake.

Passenger boats were available to take you up the Arm to Hillview to do business, catch the train or visit the doctor. One was owned by Steve Smith from Hodges Cove and I think my uncle Will Soper operated one as well.

The Government telephone was once located at our house, so we received and sent telegrams. When a message came through for someone, Melvin or I delivered them after school. If it were just a regular telegram it would be written on manila colored paper. People knew it was Ok. But if it were of a serious nature, for instance, sickness or a death, it would be written on pink paper. People were more prepared when they opened it.

After a while we had a private phone where there could be hundreds on a party line. There was no dial, just a handle to make a short ring or a long ring. Our phone had seven short rings. We had to make sure we counted them to get the right number. Otherwise you could pick up at the wrong time. Once the line was opened, everyone heard all the conversation. Nothing was private on this party line.

Since we didn't have electricity in my early days, we only had a wood stove in the kitchen. Upstairs we had a small oil stove, but Mom made sure that the fire was put out before we went to bed.

Also, Mom put a large round rock in the oven to heat. We wrapped it up in a cloth or an old shirt and put it in the middle of our bed to warm it up before we got in for the night. There were 2 or 3 large heavy quilts on the bed to help keep us warm.

In 1954, the highroad was built through the community. So now cars could drive any where, although the roads were all gravel. Electricity came in 1963. The first pole was installed on August 2, 1963 and the electricity was turned on in December 6, 1963. What a blessing!

Tuberculosis was rampant in the 1940's and 1950's. A large boat went into the outports and took chest X-rays. I remember going on board and having an X-ray. The MV *Christmas Seal* was a former naval patrol vessel and later a medical ship and oceanographic research platform. Originally built for the United States Navy as torpedo boat *PT 107*, she operated as the aircraft crash rescue boat at Naval Air Station Argentia for several years during World War II.



She was purchased in 1944 by the Newfoundland Tuberculosis Association and converted into a floating medical clinic for coastal communities in Newfoundland and Labrador. The vessel was outfitted with an X-Ray unit to test residents of the outports. They checked for any signs of TB.

The vessel's purchase and conversion was funded through the sale of Christmas Seals and through other forms of public donations. Thus she was renamed the MV *Christmas Seal*. During her medical service career, she was captained by Peter Troake. She also carried the Cross of Lorraine at the mast head. The cross is used as an emblem by the American Lung Association and related organizations through the world, and as such is familiar from their Christmas Seals program. Its use was suggested in 1902 by Paris physician Gilbert Sersiron as a symbol for the "crusade" against tuberculosis.

The school health program also provided immunization against diphtheria, typhoid, tuberculosis and small pox. School teachers were provided with health manuals and they established the Junior Red Cross program, to instruct children in First Aid, the prevention of accidents and good health in general. The Junior Red Cross program quickly became part of the school's regular activities. The students became official members and paid a set fee to help with expenses. This was held after school, with a teacher giving oversight.



Ice skates similar to the ones we strapped on our boots



The Aladdin Lamp was used in the kitchen as the main source of light.



The lamp that Ivy used for studying and also used it in her bedroom.

## The Old Homestead



Here is the spot where all my siblings and I were born. At the top of the hill to the right is Pop and Mom's two storey house, where we all grew up.

At the top of the hill is my summer home built in the mid 70's. To the left is Pop's shed where he did his work. Below the hill to the left was the saw mill. You can still see the sawdust. The house at the bottom of the hill was where Uncle Jim, Janie, Beulah and Rod lived. Above right, was Eric's old house, now no longer there. Also on the water side was Pop's little shed on the wharf. One time there was a big two story shed and a long wharf where his boats tied up.





## In the Beginning

Even though Little Harbour was a safe haven for the schooners of that day, coming into the harbour could be dangerous. Just outside the narrows of the harbour are two shoals, meaning there were two places where the water wasn't very deep even in high tide. At low tide you could touch the bottom. You had to come in on either side of the shallow area.

Coming directly in, you would see the homestead of the Dodges. The Dodges lived in that area for a long while. The name DODGE is a surname from England, They were found in Devon and Christchurch. They came to the United States, Halifax, and Newfoundland. In early instances they were found in English Harbour, Fortune, Fox Harbour , (now South Port). Some settled in Gooseberry Cove from where Robert Dodge was born. He was Pop's father. Later some of them moved to Little Heart's Ease. Today they are found in St. John's, Conception Bay South, Fortune Bay—Hermitage district and Stephenville.

Pop, William Henry was born in Little Harbour, Trinity Bay to Robert and Mary Elizabeth Dodge on May 17, 1897. He married Sarah Elizabeth Soper on January 14, 1925, at Hodges Cove, Trinity Bay. They were married by Rev. Max Way. The witnesses were Samuel Soper ( Mom's brother) and Priscilla Dodge (Pop's sister.)

Pop set out early in life as a hard working man. Although he had only grade six, he was sharp with figures. He was a fisherman, a builder of houses and boats.

In 1908 when he was just eleven years old, he started fishing with his grandfather Henry Norris for two summers. (See pages 30 and 31 for a list of his fishing years.) He said in order to keep tally of his part of the catch, he put a notch in the tail of the fish that he caught.

He fished for many years even before he was married in 1925. During these years, he fished in Petty Harbour, and went to Labrador when he was only 18 years old.

In the Fall of 1924, he went to work in the woods at South Brook. He came home and after Christmas got married on January 14, 1925. He had his house built ready to move in. According to my sister, Ivy, Mom was working in St. John's at the time. Pop went into St. John's, brought her home and they were married.

Nestled on the shores of Random was a small community called House Cove. It was harboured on the bay where you saw the sea rolling in on the beaches. You could get there by boat or walk there along a path to Little Heart's Ease about a couple of miles. In the census of 1921, there were 4 households and 19 people living there. Benjamin Price and his wife had the one grocery store in House Cove. Most of the men either fished or worked in the lumbering woods (cutting pulp wood). Grandfather Soper had a canning factory. He canned fish and lobster and Pop worked with him during 1929.



The Sopers came from England, maybe from Devon. They arrived sometime in the 1700s. Some settled near Cupids, Harbour Grace, and Hant's Harbour. The first in our line of descendants was Dr. John Soper who lived and died in Hant's Harbour. He was a medical doctor by trade. Henry was one of his sons who later settled in Old Shop, He married Elizabeth Reid from Dildo. They were married at Hant's Harbour on May 12, 1858, by Rev. Thomas Fox. Henry passed away in House Cove and was buried in the United Church cemetery on the Point. One of his children was Jonah, who eventually moved to House Cove. He married Margaret Price of Lorebourn. One of their children was Sarah Elizabeth and she later married William Henry Dodge. They settled in Little Hearts Ease.

Mom and Pop were well prepared for their journey ahead. They had some land on which to plant vegetables; a stable for the sheep and a horse. They had a chicken coop and a house for them to live in during the winter. I remember one year Mom had a pig and a goat. Pop had a two story fish stage to store his fish and cod traps and he also had a long wharf.

Since Melvin and I were last to leave the nest, we were taken care off really well. Some mornings for breakfast, we would check the chicken coop for eggs. One morning, Melvin came back with one egg. That would mean one of us had to wait until the next morning to get an egg. Mom decided that we both would share the egg so she made pancakes. We were both happy and filled.

Pop bought his first horse from Uncle Cleophas Soper. He paid him with a sack of flour. Her name was Rose and she was a bit wild. Pop would harness her in the morning to go into the country. One morning he had her ready to go but had to go back into the house for something. When he came out, the horse was gone. If she wasn't tied on, she would always run away. She was headed for Gooseberry Cove. Pop had to run to catch her. Of course she got there long before he did.

Someone had recognized her, turned her around and headed her back. Pop caught her on the way back. When he got to the house, he was sweating and needed to change his wet clothes before going into the country. Mom asked him what about Rose who was sweating as well. Pop known for his wit, replied, "Well, Sarah, she is going in with what she has on."

Pop then went into the country to cut either logs or firewood. When he arrived there, he put a heavy blanket over the horse to keep her warm. He put some hay on the ground and a bucket of water for the horse.



About 12:00 noon, they would stop and boil the kettle. The kettle could be a large juice can which they hung over the fire. They put in some tea and let it boil. They sat on a stump and enjoyed bread and tea. Sometimes they took some salted cod and roasted it on the fire. These were great times.

He shod his own horse and sometimes helped others. They always had spare horseshoes around. He used a forge to sharpen the horse shoes. The forge is the hearth that the fire is kept upon, or inside of, for the purpose of heating the iron. The forge provides a safe fire resistant structure in which to keep the fire, and to which a source of air blast can be piped to increase the heat of the fire. They had a large billow to blow the air in, a long handle was attached to the billow to pump it. I remember the second horse that he bought. I think it was from someone in Greens Harbour. Her name was May and she was a fairly big horse. She could pull out a huge load of wood. Pop made sure that there was plenty of wood brought out for the winter. Pop cut the hay in late summer, to feed the animals during the winter. We helped by turning it over to dry. It would be brought home and stored on the loft in the barn. Pop usually bought a number of sacks of oats for the horse.



Pop built a root cellar. half way up the hill near the house. (Picture on the right not exactly as shown.) A huge hole was dug on

the slope of the hill and built up with rocks and covered with gravel and sods. A floor was put on the top covered with sawdust. Then a roof was built over it with a door in the end. A hole was cut with a ladder going down in the cellar with a hatch to cover it. There were several bins for potatoes, cabbage, turnip and carrot. A barrel of apples was there for the winter. Life was very different from what it is now but we never complained. We took it a day at a time and everyone helped out. It was a family affair. Mom had a close friend, Aunt Gertie Jacobs. (picture to the right) She wasn't our aunt but special elderly people were sometimes called aunt or uncle. Aunt Gertie lived down the road from us, and she often came to visit Mom in the afternoon.



On her way to our house, she always grabbed some dead branches of trees. We called them blasty boughs. They were good for lighting the fire in the stove. Mom would hear her coming laughing as she came through the door towing these dry boughs. She and Mom had great times together. Both of them loved to laugh and were a barrel of fun.

## A Journey Together

As I already said, Pop worked with grandfather Soper canning lobsters. So he must have thought he would make a good husband for his daughter, for he gave them his approval to get married. They married and lived happily together for over 51 years. After marriage, he fished in St. John's and Labrador during the summers.

In 1942 - 1944 he fished with Mr. Eli Drodge in the Ivy Frances. Pop told us that in the fall of the year when the fish was sold. Mr. Drodge gave him a \$20.00 bonus. With that amount he bought 10 extra sacks of flour (100 lbs to a sack) Then, if anyone in the community ran short of flour, Pop and Mom would gladly share with them. Pop fished during the summer, whether it was at Labrador, St. John's or at home. The fish had to be salted, washed, and then Pop would make sure that the napes of the fish were white; all the black skin cleaned off. Then they were spread out on the flakes to dry, and then stored. We had a very large flake. I found this picture of a flake on the internet, similar to the one we had.



Pop knew how to cure the fish to have the best quality, that would bring a good price. The final step in the processing was the selling of fish to the merchant. The merchant employed a grader or "culler" who ranked the fish into grades, each of which fetched a different price per quintal ( 112 pounds.) There were often disagreements between the fishermen and the merchants about whether a "culler's" grading was fair. Generally the culler's word was final. In exchange for their fish, the fisherman received fishing and food supplies and an amount of money.

In the early fall while Pop was down to the Labrador (Fishermen never said up, they always said down), Mom worked at home. Sometimes some fisherman needed extra help. Mom often took a number of quintals of fish from them, and washed and cured it on our flake. I never heard how much she was paid for this.

I remember one day, when I was just a boy, I went down to the stage to help her with the fish. Melvin who was younger, had to come along as well, because in those days, there was no day care available. In order to keep him safe from falling over the wharf, she put him in a large puncheon tub, (A puncheon sawed in two). A puncheon is a large cask of varying capacity, but usually 80 gallons (304 litres). I got upon a box and washed fish too. O what times we had!



While the fish were spread on the flake to dry, they had to be protected at night in case of rain. One way was to put them in piles and cover them with dried large birch rind. Pop and the boys would go in the woods and cut down large birch and take off the bark (rind) Then they let the logs dry and they were called "whitens". These were used to make splits or kindling to start the fire in the morning.

Mom not only looked after the children and kept house, she tended to the gardens as well. We had a garden just outside the harbour in a small cove called Billy's Cove. While Mom was doing that, the smaller children would go down to the beach and get small flat rocks and skip them on the water. That was fun. There was a skill in skipping the rocks.

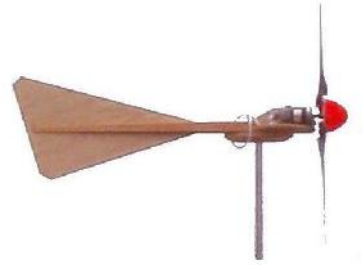


On the way home in a small boat, Mom would often say that we are going down to the 'bottom' to see if we can get a lobster. There were many lobsters in the harbour and when the water was low, (low tide) you could sometimes catch them with your hand. Mom would grab them by the antennas and throw them in the punt. That was a special treat. Life was good then.

When the caplin came in, Mom would get two or three barrels of them, pickle and dry them. Pop made some skivers which were racks made from slats. He put in finishing nails and the caplin were hung by the mouth to dry or they would spread them on wire mesh.

Melvin and I would help Mom to dry them and pack them in one pound plastic bags. The bagged caplin were worth more than selling by the bulk. In the fall of the year when they were sold she would give us some the money. Usually we bought our clothes from it and had a little spending money as well.

We didn't have a TV in these days because there was no electricity. We did have a radio that had a very large battery. Later in years, Pop had a wind charger that generated 12 volts of power. We had the house wired for 12 volt light bulbs. Pop had two 12 volt batteries out in the porch that were kept charged by the wind. Picture to the right is not exactly as we had but similar.



In 1945 Pop fished with Joshua Norris. They had three cod traps and they fished in St. John's.

Ches, Ron and Pop bought a small schooner called H.L Bailey. They fished in St. John's that year. When they were sailing, he had a large compass and charts of the waters around Newfoundland. To find out their speed, they would throw overboard a propeller like object called a log. After an hour towing, this 'log' would tell them how fast they were going.



I remember he fished in St. John's one year and all the family went in and stayed on board. It was anchored on the South Side of St. John's. Some evenings, Pop took us over to the finger piers, where the businesses were located. I remember going into some stores, and Mom sometimes bought us an ice cream. On some Sunday, we went over again and attended The Salvation Army Temple Corps for worship. I remember attending Sunday School as well.

Almost every winter, Pop built a boat of some kind, a punt (small boat) or a trap skiff. Pop built about 29 boats and punts in all.

Almost every winter in order to make extra money, he made hoops for barrels. He cut small birch trees, brought them out of the woods on horse. Then he split them, bent them and shaped them into hoops. Then he put them together, 24 hoops to a bundle. He made a dollar a bundle. They used them to make fish barrels.

In the 40s Pop would go as they called it, coasting. That meant they brought freight along the coast to St. John's and maybe brought some back. It could include hoops for fish barrels, lumber, fish or berries in the fall.

One evening during the war years as he was attempting to go into St. John's harbour, he didn't know the harbour was closed for that night. During these days, a chain was across the harbour and no one was allowed inside at night because of the fear that German submarines may be around.

When he attempted to enter, a volley was fired from the guns on the South Side. It landed in front of the bow of Pop's ship, sending water everywhere. Pop had to turn the ship around and go to Freshwater Bay. Other ships were there as well. In the meantime, a storm was brewing so Pop decided to anchor there for the night. In good judgement, Pop made sure the schooner was safe by putting out the two anchors.

Mom was a very industrious person. Before she married Pop, she worked with her father and then went to St. John's where she got work with the family of Owen Steele as a maid. The family business was called S.O. Steele and Sons. When Mom and Pop got married, Mr. Steele gave her a bowl as a wedding gift. To the left is the picture of the bowl. The three and a half story brick S.O. Steele building at 100 Water Street is a Victorian Second Empire style architecture. (Below right)



The building was built in 1884 for Hannah Martin. The business and building came into possession of the Steele family when Samuel Owen Steele married Hannah's niece, Sarah Blanch Harris. She inherited the property upon her aunt's death. Steele was an established dry goods merchant, but he renamed the store S.O. Steele and then concentrated on the wholesale aspect of selling china dishes.



The business remained in the Steele family until 1989 when James and his wife, Frances decided to retire. They sold the building to Clyde Rose of Breakwater Books. It was recognised as a Registered Heritage Structure in June 1987.

After Mom and Pop got married, they began their life long journey together. Pop had his house already built and they moved in together. Mom came and settled in for a life with her beloved. They complimented each other well. Mom was a good house keeper and managed her affairs well. Although she never went fishing with him, she stood behind him and supported him to the full extent.

In the Spring, we helped Mom to shear the sheep. Melvin and I were the only two left at home. The rest were away fishing and Ivy worked in St. John's. So we held down the sheep that had a thick fleece of wool so Mom was able to shear them. After that she washed the wool and stored it. When needed, she would card it. Carding wool must be done in order to get the fiber ready for spinning into yarn. The clean fiber is carded either by machine or by hand into a manageable size. This allows the spinner to draw out the amount she needs as she is spinning without having to stop to pull out knots, briers, or tangles. Carding is a relaxing way to spend an afternoon or evening.



After the wool was carded, she spun it on a Spinning Jenny that Pop had made for her. She would spin it for hours. After that she turned a chair upside down and using three legs, she made the wool into skeins. Sometimes she dyed the wool different colours depending on what she was knitting. She knitted socks, vamps ( short

socks) double knitted gloves and mitts with just the thumb. Some years after, instead of preparing the wool herself, Mom packed it up and sent it away. She sent it to Briggs and Little Woollen Mills in York Mills, New Brunswick, where it was carded, dyed and spun at their factory, which has operated for over 150 years. They then shipped back to her the finished product.



Not only was Mom a great wife and mother, she was a psychologist as well. She knew how to correct things without scolding you or humiliating you. Let me tell you this story about me. I had a very bad habit. When I came home, as I entered the porch, I most often took off my jacket and threw it on the floor in the corner of the porch. I didn't hang it up.

One day upon arriving home, as I entered the porch, Mom was on her knees with a hammer and was about to drive a nail in the porch floor. I asked what was she doing. I wondered if there were a floor board loose. With a grin on her face, she said "No, I am putting in a nail so you can hang your coat on it." Boy, did I ever get a lesson that day! Never forgot that one.

## Master Boat Builder

There is no doubt about it Pop was a master builder. Although he only attended school to grade six yet with the knowledge and skill he had, he built houses, sheds, punts (small rowboats), large trap skiffs (large boats for cod trap fishing), a 60 ton schooner, a long-liner, and two model schooners.

He sometimes built a boat in the winter and sold it in the spring for extra money. Pop was a man who had to be doing something. He was never idle. He had all the tools for building and if he didn't have one he made it. Early in his life, Pop was part owner of a large watermill, that was operated by water from two large ponds and a reservoir.



A few years later, he was part owner of another mill, run by a gasoline engine. It was called a stationery engine, with two large wheels and a large water tank to help cool the engine. (picture below similar to the one Pop had)

Later he built a saw mill right below the house, using a Briggs and Stratton engine. He sawed a lot of lumber there. He sawed timber and plank for other people. Lumber was normally sawed on the halves or on a 50/50 basis. You brought 100 logs and kept 50 for sawing them. Pop thought that was too

much, since the person had slaved in the woods by cutting them and hauling them out. He decided to saw them on the thirds. With sixty logs it would be 40 / 20.

Pop went in the country on the horse and sled, cut the timber and plank and sawed and planed it for his boats. The tree had to be just right to cut.

I mentioned his schooner earlier which he had called the Ivy B. Melvin. It was called after his only daughter, Ivy, great niece, Beulah, and his youngest son Melvin. Some of the local men helped him. I believe the schooner was built down in the bottom of Little Harbour. It was fully rigged (sails).

One time Pop needed nails and bolts for the schooner, so he and Eric walked to Clarendville and got them and then walked back. That was quite a distance. We called that going on shank's pony.



Pop built that schooner around 1948 and used it until 1953. After that he sold it to Freeman Wareham of Alberto Wareham & Sons Limited, Spencer's Cove, Placentia Bay. The length was 64.5 feet, 19.6 feet wide, and 7.9 deep. It had two 30 Atlantic engines. Mr Wareham looked for large schooners for fishing. I understand that it was sold again and was later lost at sea near Bay de Verde on August 19, 1960.

He built two very large trap skiffs for Frank Puddister in Bay Bulls, NL. Pop was well known for building good strong boats.

He also built a large longliner around 1964 and used it for a while until the bottom went out of the fishery. Then he sold it. The longliner was called Halford-Robert-Lawrence after three of his grandsons. She had a 70 horsepower Perkins engine.

Pop built his own house which is still standing today after almost 90 years. He helped others as well. He was quite happy and eager to build my summer home at Little Harbour.

He also oversaw the building of a former Salvation Army Citadel in Little Heart's Ease (to the left). He had some men helping him and every spare minute he was there.

Building a boat required a lot of planning and hard work. Pop went in the country to cut timber and planks. He brought them home on the sled. Pop framed out the boat and after he put all the timber in place, he planked it. The plank had to be the same thickness and fairly tight. He then caulked it with oakum. Traditional caulking



on wooden vessels uses fibres of cotton, and oakum (hemp fiber soaked in pine tar).see picture to the right).



These fibers are driven into the wedge-shaped seams between the planks, with a caulking mallet and a broad chisel-like tool called a caulking iron. (see picture right). The caulking is then covered over with melted pine pitch. The pitch was melted and put on the seams with a brush. When this



hardened it was sanded really smooth. Pop painted the boat; the bottom would be painted red, and the top sides usually white. It was painted on the inside as well. Then it was ready to sell.

Regarding the motor boats or trap skiff; Pop had a 6.5 Acadia engine, ‘a make and break’ they would say. (Picture to the right a very similar engine). They were good reliable engines.

A shaft went through the stuffing box with a propeller on the end. They would make the bearing in the casing to run smoothly. They used Babbitt as bearings. Babbitt, also called Babbitt metal or bearing metal, is any of several alloys used for the bearing surface in a plain bearing.



A stuffing box, or packing gland, is used around a propeller shaft at the point it exits a boat's hull underwater. It is the most common method for preventing water from entering the hull



while still allowing the propeller shaft to turn. I remember one time Pop and Eric and Jonah and I were coming up from Claypitts in boat. We were very close to the shore, going very slowly. All of a sudden the propeller came off and sank to the bottom. Pop got the boat to stop and turned it around with the oar, because the water was choppy or troubled. Surprising to me, he poured oil on the water. When we looked the water was calm. As we looked down we could easily see the propeller. Pop then retrieved it with a gaff. We waited until someone was passing by and we hitched a ride home. Later in life, I always understood the saying about “pouring oil on troubled waters.”

## The Boats that Pop built.



### The Ivy B Melvin



A punt that pop built with Robert sitting in it



One of Pop's models



Pop's second model, including trimming and sails, was rigged by him. Ivy cut out the sails and hemmed them..



## Preparing the Fishing Gear

They had a huge pot to boil the bark. Then they put the nets in a large tub and the bark mixture was added. They often put in buds from conifer (spruce) trees. Melvin and I went into the country and found as many as we could and brought them out. They also helped to preserve the nets. Pop threw them in the big iron bark pot. When all the nets were barked, he spread them on the grass to dry, or he put them across a fence. He got them ready to go fishing as soon as possible. (picture on the left found on the internet shows fishermen barking nets)

The cod traps were brought out and spread on a grassy piece of land. Pop would examine them to see if there were any damaged areas. He made sure all the traps were strong and sturdy.

New ropes that had to be stretched. Sometimes he tied them on his gate post and stretched them down the road unto Ron Dodge's fence.



The four kegs that were on the corners of the trap had to be inspected for any leaks or rotted areas. When everything was OK, he stored them on the loft in the stage ready for use.

He had several berths (places) to set them. Of course they had to be near the shore to secure them. One place he set a cod trap was Claypitts Rock. It was a good place to catch fish.

The trap was in the shape of a box anchored from the four corners. A long leader would go to the shore and be tied on. The fish would swim down along the shore, hit the leader and go into the trap. When Pop and the men would go out to pull up the trap, they went to the center and pulled up the mouth of the trap and closed the door so the fish could not escape. They kept pulling up the net until the front

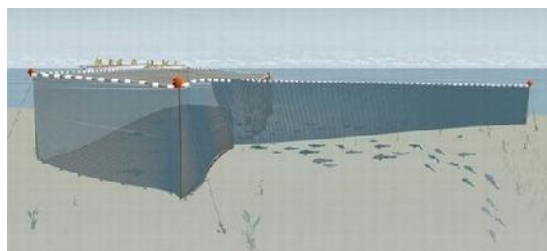
wall of the trap came up. It had a smaller mesh and if a lot of fish were there, they dipped them into the boat. (See picture to the right of how the cod trap lay in the water.)

Sometimes if there weren't a lot of fish in one trap, they pulled another trying to make a load. There were times they had a water haul. (That was no fish but all water)

They came home with whatever fish they caught. Right away that was cleaned and salted. If they came with a boat load of fish, Pop was all smiles when he came for lunch. After the fish were looked after, it was time to go out again to pull another trap, hoping for another boat load. It was really hard work. Sometimes you got a boat load and other times no fish at all.

There were times they got a salmon in the leader, and we had fried salmon for supper with potatoes. If they got more than one, Pop shared it with members of his family or some of his friends.

Cod tongues or britches (roe) were often cut out for supper as well. The reason why they were called britches was because they were in the shape of a pair of pants. They were red in color. They too were delicious.



## Mom: His Soul-Mate

There was no doubt about it. Mom and Pop were a team. She had certain skills of her own. In those days, you couldn't buy everything you needed, so you had to improvise. You did the best you could with what you had. When anyone had a kettle that had a hole in the bottom, they brought it to Mom. She had a soldering iron and she could mend it for them. Pop had a boot last (see picture to the right) that he used to put taps (soles) on worn shoes or boots. They would buy leather, cut it to the size of the shoe and fasten it with tacks and glue. Because Pop went to St. John's often, he had the opportunity to buy these things.



I heard my mother say that she had a butter churn. She made her own butter whenever she could get cream. Being isolated, you had to make things as they came along. I heard her talk about making lye soap. That was quite a feat in itself. I can't remember how she said she did it, but it seemed that many people made it.

When someone died in the community, the men made the pine box (casket). They covered it with a purple cloth and put handles on the sides. I never ever liked the color purple from that day until now. Mom normally made the shroud (a linen cloth to cover the body). Mom would spend at least a day or more just cutting a shroud. Her fingers would be quite sore. It was usually cut in a diamond pattern. There would be little pieces of linen in the house for weeks.

When Mom went to St. John's, she would check the stores to see their wall paper. If she saw a nice pattern for the kitchen, living room or bedrooms, she would buy it. When she came home she mixed a paste and put it on the back of the wallpaper and then pressed it on the wall. They never removed the old paper. They said it acted as insulation. (Smart Hey?)



Mom had a vinegar plant and she made her own vinegar. Almost everyone had a vinegar plant in their home. This picture (to the right) shows, what it really looked like in a large bottle or jar. In some places in Newfoundland, they made vinegar jam and vinegar pies. They were delicious. All the supplies had to take us through the winter months. We loved the sweet biscuits, and Mom treated us on special occasions. The barrel of apples was stored in the cellar and every now and then Mom would give us one. I can see and smell the big red apples in the barrel right now. Mom's daily chore every morning was to bring all the lamps to the kitchen area, clean the chimneys, snuff the wick (cut it fair across) and fill the lamps with kerosene oil. Monday was wash day. On Saturday we filled the water barrel to the top for her. We didn't bring water on Sundays. All chores had to be done on



Saturday. At first there were no washing machines, just a tub with a scrub board. (See picture to the top left). Mom had a round tub. Later on she got a wringer that attached to the tub to wring her clothes. Sunlight soap was generally used for washing the clothes. By the way, people in those days were up very early. Normally clothes was washed and hung outside on the clothesline before 8:00AM. No sleeping in at our house.

One of the different things she used, was the iron. The first type was put on the stove to heat. She used that one for a number of years. (See iron to the right) Then she got a gas one. This is a picture of the actual one which Mom used (above left). Once the electricity came through Ivy bought her an electric modern iron. How times have changed!



## Down To Labrador

Residents of the Island of Newfoundland have regarded travel to Labrador as "going down north to Labrador" (or, more precisely, "the Labrador") rather than the usual geographical conventional way of regarding north as being "up". To Newfoundlanders the north has almost always been perceived as the Labrador portion of the province.

A fishing trip to Labrador required a great deal of planning and preparation. Usually in the month of May, Pop would take a load of lumber, which he had cut and sawed from his own saw mill and it was brought to Baine Johnson Company, one of the well known fish merchants in St. John's at that time. (Building seen at the left) An alternative buyer was Saunders and Howell in Carbonear. The picture below shows Pop's



schooner tied to Baine Johnson's wharf. Maybe he was picking up supplies to go.

In St. John's, proceeds from the sale of the lumber partially paid for supplies which would be needed for their fishing expedition and also food supplies for the family while he was away. In addition to plenty of the basic food supplies, there would be gas, fishing gear and salt for the fish. The remainder would be paid in the fall, after the trip was finished.

Once the schooner was loaded and the crew ready, Pop would leave Little Harbour early in June (perhaps the 6<sup>th</sup>). Eric recalls his trip. Pop was the skipper; Jonah was engineer. Arthur Jacobs was cook and other crew members who did the fishing were Bill, Eric, Uncle Grenfield Soper, Uncle Tom Stringer, Bill Peddle and Ernie Norris.

The trip normally took one week, provided there was no ice to hamper them. After leaving Little Harbour around 10:00 – 11:00 am, their first stop would be Trinity where they stayed for the night. Then Seldom would be the next stop. If the weather was favourable and there was no ice, they would continue on down across the straits to Battle Harbour and from there, they sailed to Cartwright for a night stop. Groswater Bay and Injun Islands would be their final destination and from there they would do their fishing.

Cod fish were plentiful, as well as salmon, and many schooners joined them on these trips. They put out three traps in all and then they were checked and emptied on a daily basis. Once the fish were on the schooner, then the men were kept busy again. Strict procedures had to be followed to produce the highest quality of dried salted cod.

Pop and Uncle Grenfield were the 'splitters' and Tom Stringer helped out as needed. Their job was to remove the sound bones and the centre of the fish. Then the 'throat cutters' (usually Eric and Bill Dodge) did exactly that; cut the throats and slit the fish for the 'headers' They were usually Bill Peddle and Tom who removed the guts and the heads. Ernie helped with salting and sometimes when needed helped to clean the fish.

After that process, the fish were cleaned, split, salted and then stored in the mid-ship area of the schooner (below the deck). When the schooner was fully loaded, it would be time to head home. The whole trip away lasted about three months. Pop and Eric are seen on the left hauling up the trap.



The crew worked long and hard at sea, so it was necessary to have a full time cook (Arthur Jacobs) so that nourishing hot meals were available when they needed them. Sunday was always a day of rest, and in the morning, Pop and Tom Stringer had a Bible reading and a prayer before breakfast. Pop was a godly man and loved to read his Bible and say his prayers.

Once back in Little Harbour, the fish was taken out of the schooner and the traps were spread out to dry on the beaches or across the fences. Then the crew took the fish and thoroughly washed off the salt and removed any darkened film from the naples. After that the fish was placed on flakes to dry, for 3-4 days of 'sun'.



Once the fish was ready, it was loaded back on the schooner and then taken to St. John's to the merchants. Pop, of course was dealing with Baine Johnson. Fishermen rarely received the full worth of their fish. On the trip Eric remembers, they had 1034 quantiles (pronounced kan tells) of good dried cod (about 112 pounds per quantile)

Once the transaction was made, about one half of the catch was taken to pay off outstanding bills from the trip (fishing gear, gas, salt, food and any miscellaneous expenses). The remainder of the catch was then divided among the crew members. When young boys went on such a trip to Labrador, they received one half share on their first trip; three quarter share on their second trip and full share on their third trip. Eric received about five hundred dollars for his share. With Pop's share, he bought clothes, shoes, boots and food. Food staples were bought in barrels, sacks or boxes. This included :

28 Sacks of Flour	5 Sacks of Sugar	2 Boxes of Tea
Box of Solo Butter	Baking powder	Navy beans
Split yellow Peas	White Rice	Prunes
Ginger Snaps	Plain Biscuits	Sweet Biscuits
Barrel of Apples	Raisins	Apricots
Dried Apple	Spices	Molasses
Salted Pork	Salt Beef	Hard Bread

He also brought home from Labrador a tub of salted Salmon. Some of the food items were stored in the Grub House (small shed). The rest was stored upstairs in a spare bedroom. The room at that time had no window so we called it the dark room.

## Map of Newfoundland and Labrador



## Hunting

For extra food for the table, the men either went moose hunting or went out in the bay shooting turrs (see picture to the right) and bullbirds (see picture below at the left). These were like a turr but much smaller. You would use a 12 gauge shot gun. You could buy the cartridges at George Strong's store. If he ran out of cartridges, Pop made his own. He had lots of empty shells, and all that he needed were powder, shot and a primer. The primer went in the end of the cartridge to fire it.

Pop had some lead that he would melt down and pour into a mould and it made the shot. The hot lead then went into cold water. He would proceed to fill the 12 gauge cartridge. First he put in the primer at the end; then the powder, some wadding, then lead shots and a final wadding. These would be for turrs and saltwater ducks. For bullbirds, he loaded the cartridge with a smaller load.



They left early in the morning in boat and went in search of the birds. They often came home with 20 or more. Then they had to be picked (all the feathers had to be removed). Mom put on a boiler of water and heated it. When it was hot, they took the turr and dipped it into the hot water and started removing the feathers. The birds would be very clean. This procedure had to continue until all were picked and clean. We didn't have deep freezers than so they put them out into the store where supplies were kept. They would freeze solid over night. We would have a feed of turrs for Sunday dinner. Because the bullbirds were small they were used to make soup.

When the seals came in on the ice, Pop would get one, clean it and we would have flipper pie for supper. The meat on the carcass was also delicious. Mom baked it with vegetables and gravy with a pastry on top.

Also during the fall and winter, Pop caught rabbits. Mom bottled them to use later when we needed some meat. If Jonah or Bill shot a moose, Mom bottled some of that for the winter too. Whatever was left we would take it around to share with our neighbours for a meal.

After the electricity came, we had freezers to put them in. Those were the days all right.

## Fishing at Home

Along with the cod Pop also fished for herring and mackerel. They cleaned them and put them in barrels of pickle. In the fall, when the mackerel came, the fishermen were anxious to catch as much as they could to supplement their income for the winter months.

The mackerel usually came into the coves in large schools. Pop and his helpers put a large seine across the head of the cove to keep them inside. Then they put a smaller seine inside the large one and pulled it from one side to the other, trapping as many as they could. When this seine was filled, they were dipped up with a dip-net and put in the boats. After they brought them in to the stage, the mackerel were then filleted, cleaned and pickled in 200 pound barrels.



After a period of time in the pickle, merchants came in boats and bought them from the fishermen.

Eric remembers a time when Pop was in St. John's with his crew and he was left in charge to make the sale of the mackerel with the merchant. He was about 17 years old at the time. He and Pop had figured out approximately how much they would receive from their catch. So, after making the deal with the



merchant, Eric was given the total amount in cash, which he was to take to his father in St. John's.

Back at the house, his mother put the money in a little cloth bag, tied it around his neck and then pinned it to his inside shirt. Quite a responsibility for a young man.

Eric then boarded a passenger boat (owned by Alf Stoyles) and arrived at Hillview. At Northern Bight Station, he got on the train and rode to St. John's to meet his father. Then after the expenses were taken out, they shared the money among the 5 crew members.

In the 1930's, herring was also a profitable catch for the fisherman. Al Clouston's father, John had built a factory just out around the cove. A lot of fisherman were involved in catching the fresh herring and then they delivered them to the factory. There, they were smoked and put in barrels and shipped away. The factory employed quite a few people.

One summer I was home and Pop and the boys went up the bay fishing in the longliner, for a week. I went with them and I tried my hand at cooking. One day I decided to cook a Jiggs Dinner. All went well, until I tried to make doughboys. Since I never made them before, I did my best. I made them from flour, baking powder, sugar and raisins. After a little while I looked at the pot and saw this thing looking at me. There were two large doughboys, and I mean large ones, with two raisins looking like two eyes, staring at me. I took them out and threw them overboard. Suddenly two more lifted the cover and peeped out. They all went over board. I discovered I had put in way too much baking powder. When the men came in and sat down for dinner (not supper) someone said "you should have made some doughboys, that would be great." I told them the story how unsuccessful I was. Since it was very foggy coming in from fishing, Eric piped up and said, "I knew it was something I saw coming in, these great big white things that looked like icebergs." They had a big laugh at my expense. I don't think I made doughboys since then.



One summer when Eric's son, Larry was about 5 or 6 years old, he wanted to go out in the fishing boat with his father and grandfather. He loved it. He didn't mind getting up early and going to the traps. Mommy Dodge had some 100 lb empty flour sacks and she decided to make him a suit of clothes. After cutting and fitting the material to his size, she soaked it in linseed oil. This helped to waterproof the suit and it became a pair of oil clothes, jacket and pants. One evening when he came up to our house, Mom gave him the suit of oil clothes. (See Larry in the picture to the right) He took it home and laid it on the woodbox for the morning. He was so proud of his oil clothes. He thought of

himself as a bona fide fisherman. Eric was telling me that early the next morning, before he got up, he heard a noise out in the kitchen. It was almost 5 o'clock am, and when he got up to investigate, it was Larry. He had pulled a chair over to the stove, had wood put in, kettle filled with water, and was trying to find a match to light the fire to boil the kettle. He was dressed and ready to go out fishing. What an eager young fisherman!

## The Death of A Saint

### Psalm 116:15 Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints.

Mom and Pop were married for over 51 years. They had a great life together. They had worked hard to look after their family. They had 7 sons and 1 daughter. Two of the sons died at an early age. As far as the standard of living was concerned, our family was fairly well to do in that day. We wore good clothes, had plenty of food on the table and had money to spare, not a lot but some.

Mom was a tower of strength to those around her and those afar. She was an outstanding Christian who loved her family and her God. She served Him well. If I were to describe her as a wife and a woman of God, I would go to the Scriptures. If I were to choose appropriate verses for Mom they would be:

#### The Wife of Noble Character (Selective verses) Proverbs 31 NIV

- <sup>10</sup> *A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies.*  
<sup>11</sup> *Her husband has full confidence in her and lacks nothing of value.*  
<sup>12</sup> *She brings him good, not harm, all the days of her life.*  
<sup>13</sup> *She selects wool and works with eager hands.*  
<sup>15</sup> *She gets up while it is still night; she provides food for her family .....*  
<sup>17</sup> *She sets about her work vigorously; her arms are strong for her tasks.*  
<sup>19</sup> *In her hand she holds the distaff and grasps the spindle with her fingers.*  
<sup>20</sup> *She opens her arms to the poor and extends her hands to the needy.*  
<sup>21</sup> *When it snows, she has no fear for her household; for all of them are clothed .....*  
<sup>22</sup> *She makes coverings for her bed .....*  
<sup>23</sup> *Her husband is respected at the city gate, where he takes his seat among the elders of the land.*  
<sup>25</sup> *She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come.*  
<sup>26</sup> *She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue.*  
<sup>27</sup> *She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness.*  
<sup>28</sup> *Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her:*  
<sup>29</sup> *“Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all.”*  
<sup>30</sup> *Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.*  
<sup>31</sup> *Honor her for all that her hands have done, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate.*

Around 1976, Mom became ill. She went to the hospital and had an operation for cancer. She fought a great battle but finally succumbed to the dreaded disease. She had no fear because she had placed her faith in her God many years ago. Her parents Jonah and Margaret Soper had taught her well and set a good example for her.

In the later months of her illness, Ivy resigned from her work, returned home and cared for her until her passing. All the family appreciated her sacrificial love to a wonderful mother. On August 26, 1976 she went home to be with the Lord whom she loved. I think Charles Wesley said it best when he wrote these words:

**Servant of God, well done!  
Thy glorious warfare's past;  
The battle's fought, the race is won,  
And thou art crowned at last**



## Alone but not alone

After Mom died, Pop was really lonely. He missed his wife dearly. He told me there was no one who could take her place. He kept himself busy doing some work around the house and he built two model schooners.

After Cora and I became Salvation Army Officers, we always looked forward to having Mom and Pop spend the winter months with us. They visited us in Chance Cove, Birchy Bay, St. John's (Duckworth Street ) and Clarkes Beach. In July 1976 we moved to Comfort Cove. By this time Mom was not well and passed away in August. That year Pop came alone to visit us. However, he quickly made friends with the older men at the church, and they enjoyed sharing stories.

The following years while I was still in Newfoundland, he came with us to Musgravetown, Carbonear, Bishop's Falls and Dildo-New Harbour. He easily made friends in every town and even sent Christmas cards every year after to some that he had gotten to know well.

When he was up in his nineties, he still lived at home. He did his own cooking during the week. Ivy came home on weekends. She made out a meal plan for him which he followed. He cooked a lot of Jiggs Dinners. I think he cooked up a 25 lb pail of salt beef each month. Sometimes Jonah and Bill would drop in and savor the taste of Pop's cooking.



In 1988, Pop decided that he would like to go to Glenbrook Lodge. Before that he was reluctant to go but now he had made up his mind for sure. He made sure that he had everything in order. Ivy, Jonah and Bill suggested that they would go to Fewer's Funeral home in Clarenville and make necessary funeral arrangements for him. However, he insisted that he wanted to take care of the matter himself. He proudly said, "I want to pick out my last boat myself."

Once he got settled in at Glenbrook Lodge, he loved it there. He took part in many activities, and told many funny stories. He was loved by all the staff. Did he sit in a chair and twiddle his thumbs? No siree! He knitted cast nets; useable ones and some that could be used on walls as decorations. Also he made brewis nets, so that when you were making fish and brewis, you could put the hard bread in the bag to heat. He gave away many of these.

Ivy often brought Pop home on weekends but he looked forward to getting back to the Glenbrook Lodge. One weekend in December he came home. Apparently, he was not feeling well, but nobody knew about it. One night he became very ill and was taken to Clarenville hospital. Shortly after, as he himself would say, "he pulled up anchor and headed for his last port of entry, Heaven". It was December 31, 1993. His funeral arrangements had already been made. In a little booklet, he had recorded for us the outline for his funeral service, with his favourite hymns and Scripture readings.

**Well done thou good and faithful servant, and may I add fisherman.**

**Newfoundland 1921 Census  
Trinity Bay District**

**{4 Households - 19 Individuals}**

[\[1921 Census Index\]](#)

**This file "Verified" \* with the Original Pages (October 2003 by Don Tate)**

Newfoundland 1921 Census Trinity Bay District House Cove										
Col. 1 Dwelling Number	Col. 2 Family Number	Col. 3 Given Name	Col. 3 SurName	Col. 5 Sex	Col. 6 Rel.	Col. 7 Stat.	Col. 8 Birth Yr.	Col. 9 Birth Month	Col. 10 Age	Col. 11 Birth Pl.
PAGE 329										
1	1	Jonah	SOPER	M	Head	Married	1848	Mar	43	Dildo, TB
		Maggie	SOPER	F	Wife	Married	1879	Jan	42	Lourbourn, TB
		Sarah E.	SOPER	F	Daughter	Single	1901	June	20	House Cove
		Samuel H.	SOPER	M	Son	Single	1906	Feb	15	House Cove
		Wm. T.	SOPER	M	Son	Single	1908	Sept.	12	House Cove
		Martha Anne	SOPER	F	Daughter	Single	1912	July	9	House Cove
		Elijah	SOPER	M	Son	Single	1916	June	5	House Cove
2	2	Benjamin	SOPER	M	Head	Married	1883	Jan	38	Lourbourn, TB
		Susannah	SOPER	F	Wife	Married	1888	Aug	33	Long Beach
3	3	Cleophis	SOPER	M	Head	Married	1890	May	31	House Cove
		Miduies ?	SOPER	F	Wife	Married	1900	Oct	21	Lourbourn
4	4	William H.	JACOBS	M	Head	Married	1871	July	50	Little Hr, TB
		Maggie	JACOBS	F	Wife	Married	1876	July	45	Long Beach, T.B.
		Annie	JACOBS	F	Daughter	Single	1906	Mar	15	House Cove
		Arthur	JACOBS	M	Son	Single	1897	May	22	House Cove
		Jimima	JACOBS	F	Daughter	Single	1908	July	13	House Cove
		Lusander ?	JACOBS	F	Daughter	Single	1910	June	11	House Cove
		Elizabeth	JACOBS	F	Daughter	Single	1913	Nov	8	House Cove
		Leslie	JACOBS	F	Son	Single	1918	Sept.	2	House Cove

**1935 CENSUS  
HOUSE COVE  
From: Garrett's Cove To: Rocky Harbour  
TRINITY BAY DISTRICT**

Col 1	Col 2	Col 3	Col 3	Col 9	Col 10	Col 11	Col 12
DWELLING	FAMILY	SURNAME	GIVEN NAME	REL TO HEAD	SEX	MARITAL STATUS	AGE
PAGE 389							
106	113	PRICE	Benjamin	Head	M	M	49
		PRICE	Susanna	Wife	F	M	48
		DRODGE	Eldred	Son	M	S	12
107	114	SOPER	Cleophas	Head	M	M	44
		SOPER	Mediam	Wife	F	M	34
		SOPER	Phylis	Daughter	F	S	13
		SOPER	Stephen M	Son	M	S	9
		SOPER	Susanna	Daughter	F	S	2
108	115	SOPER	Jonah	Head	M	M	59
		SOPER	Margaret	Wife	F	M	57
		SOPER	William	Son	M	S	27
		SOPER	Elijah	Son	M	S	21
		SOPER	Grenfield	Son	M	S	12
		SOPER	Blanch	?	F	W	25
		Above relation looks like Wife of ??? Samuel Soper					
		SOPER	Lawrence	Son	M	S	8
109	116	JACOBS	William H	Head	M	M	66
		JACOBS	Mary M	Wife	F	M	60
		JACOBS	Elizabeth	Daughter	F	S	22
		JACOBS	Leslie J	Son	M	S	16
		JACOBS	Benjamin G	Son	M	S	12
110	117	JACOBS	Arthur	Head	M	M	36
		JACOBS	Angelina	Wife	F	M	36
		JACOBS	William H	Son	M	S	7
PAGE 390							
111	118	AVERY	Nicholas	Head	M	M	36
		AVERY	Martha	Wife	F	M	23
		AVERY	Roosevelt	Daughter	F	S	7
		AVERY	Elizabeth V	Daughter	F	S	6
		AVERY	Bertha	Daughter	F	S	5
		AVERY	James	Son	M	S	3
		AVERY	Margaret	Daughter	F	S	2
		AVERY	Marina	Daughter	F	S	7 mo

# 1921 CENSUS

## Trinity Bay District

### Little Harbour (Part 1)

[Back To District Selection](#)  
[Back To Community Selection](#)

<< FIRST < PREV ( Page 1 of 2 ) [NEXT](#) > [LAST](#) >>

You are viewing page #321 of the Trinity Bay district in the 1921 census!

Dwelling	Family	Surname	Given Name	Sex	Relationship	Status	Birth Year	Birth Month	Age	Place Of Birth	Notes
7	7	NORRIS	Wm. H.	M	Head	Married	1873	Apr	43	Little Harbour	
7	7	NORRIS	Mary	F	Wife	Married	1879	July	42	Deer Harbour	
7	7	NORRIS	Joshua	M	Son	Single	1901	Aug	19	Little Harbour	
7	7	NORRIS	George	M	Son	Single	1903	Aug	17	Little Harbour	
7	7	NORRIS	Casendor	F	Daughter	Single	1907	Aug	14	Little Harbour	
7	7	NORRIS	William	M	Son	Single	1909	Sept.	11	Little Harbour	
8	8	STRONG	H.G.	M	Head	Widower	1850	Oct	70	Brownsdale, TB	
8	8	PRICE	Stephen	M	Husband	Married	1876	Feb	44	Lourbourn, TB	
8	8	PRICE	Jessie	F	Wife	Married	1893	Dec	28	St. Jones Within	
8	8	PRICE	Wesley	M	Son	Single	1908	Dec	13	Little Harbour	
8	8	PRICE	Rebecca J.	F	Daughter	Single	1910	Aug	11	Little Harbour	
8	8	STRONG	H.G.	M	Son	Single	1914	Oct	7	Little Harbour	
8	8	STRONG	Priscilla	F	Daughter	Single	1916	Oct	5	Little Harbour	
9	9	NORRIS	George	M	Head	Married	1882	Feb	38	Little Harbour	
9	9	NORRIS	Jesse Ann	F	Wife	Married	1884	Aug	37	Southport	
9	9	NORRIS	Lydia	F	Daughter	Single	1911	July	11	Little Harbour	
9	9	NORRIS	Wm. J.	M	Son	Single	1914	Oct	7	Little Harbour	
9	9	NORRIS	Jonah	M	Son	Single	1918	Mar.	3	Little Harbour	
9	9	NORRIS	Casendar	F	Mother	widow	1838	Oct	81	Brownsdale, TB	
9	9	NORRIS	James	F	Son	Boader ?	1871	Feb	49	Little Harbour T.B.	
10	10	DODGE	Robert	M	Head	Married	1871	June	50	Gooseberry Cove	
10	10	DODGE	Elizabeth	F	Wife	Married	1871	Sept.	50	Little Harbour T.B.	
10	10	DODGE	William H.	M	Married	Single	1898	May	23	Little Harbour T.B.	
10	10	DODGE	John	M	Married	Single	1901	Dec	20	Little Harbour T.B.	
10	10	DODGE	James	M	Married	Single	1903	Aug	18	Little Harbour T.B.	
10	10	DODGE	Mathias	M	Married	Single	1905	Nov	16	Little Harbour T.B.	
10	10	DODGE	Stephen	M	Married	Single	1908	Feb	12	Little Harbour T.B.	
10	10	DODGE	Priscilla	F	Daughter	Single	1907	Oct	13	Little Harbour T.B.	

**1935 CENSUS  
LITTLE HARBOUR  
TRINITY BAY DISTRICT**

Col 1	Col 2	Col 3	Col 3	Col 9	Col 10	Col 11	Col 12
DWELLING	FAMILY	SURNAME	GIVEN NAME	REL TO HEAD	SEX	MARITAL STATUS	AGE
PAGE 380							
55	58	NORRIS	Wm. Henry	Head	M	M	63
		NORRIS	Mary	Wife	F	M	56
		NORRIS	Cassie	Daughter	F	S	28
		NORRIS	Ernest S.	Son	M	S	13
		MARTIN	Minnie	Adopted Daughter	F	S	6
56	59	NORRIS	George	Head	M	M	32
		NORRIS	Gertrude	Wife	F	M	28
		NORRIS	Eva	Daughter	F	S	1
57	60	NORRIS	Joshua	Head	M	M	34
		NORRIS	Mary Jane	Wife	F	M	33
		NORRIS	William	Son	M	S	7
		NORRIS	Myrtle Goldie	Daughter	F	S	3
		NORRIS	Junior	Son	M	S	1 mos
58	61	PRICE	Stephen	Head	M	M	60
PAGE 381							
		PRICE	Jessie	Wife	F	M	42
		STRONG	George	Son	M	S	21
		STRONG	Priscilla	Daughter	F	S	19
		PRICE	Alma	Daughter	F	S	9
59	62	DODGE	Robert J.	Head	M	M	65
		DODGE	Mary E	Wife	F	M	65
		DODGE	John Jr.	Son	M	S	34
		DODGE	James	Son	M	S	32
		DODGE	Stephen	Son	M	S	25
		DODGE	Liza Jane	Granddaughter	F	S	11
60	63	DODGE	William Henry	Head	M	M	36
		DODGE	Sarah	Wife	F	M	34
		DODGE	Jonah	Son	M	S	10
		DODGE	William	Son	M	S	6
		DODGE	Ivy	Daughter	F	S	4
		DODGE	Eric C	Son	M	S	2

61	64	JACOBS	George	Head	M	M	56
		JACOBS	Mary Jane	Wife	F	M	55
		JACOBS	Isaac John	Son	M	S	27
		JACOBS	Wm. Thos	Son	M	S	21
		JACOBS	Stephen	Son	M	S	23
		JACOBS	Hayward	Son	M	S	13
62	65	JACOBS	John	Head	M	M	39
		JACOBS	Gertie	Wife	F	M	42
		JACOBS	Walter	Son	M	S	17
		JACOBS	Willis	Son	M	S	15
		JACOBS	Hubert	Son	M	S	12
		JACOBS	Catherine	Daughter	F	S	9
		JACOBS	Lindsay	Son	M	S	6
		JACOBS	Susan	Daughter	F	S	2
63	66	DODGE	John	Head	M	M	55
		DODGE	Belinda	Wife	F	M	49
		DODGE	Bertha	Daughter	F	S	28
PAGE 382							
		DODGE	Chesley	Son	M	S	26
		DODGE	Ronald	Son	M	S	24
		DODGE	Joseph	Son	M	S	21
		DODGE	Mary Ann	Daughter	F	S	18
		DODGE	Archer	Son	M	S	12
		DODGE	Doris	Daughter	F	S	6
64	67	BENSON	Newman	Head	M	M	30
		BENSON	Lydia	Wife	F	M	25
		BENSON	Ernest	Son	M	S	6
		BENSON	Jonah	Son	M	S	2
	68	BENSON	Isaac	Cousin	M	S	36
		BENSON	David	Cousin	M	S	34
		BENSON	George	Cousin	M	S	32

## William Henry Dodge Fishing Years

- 1908 -1909 I went fishing with my grandfather Norris when I was eleven years old. I fished with him for two summers. In order to keep a tally of my part of the catch, I had to cut the tails on the fish. (Put a notch in the tail)
- 1910 I went fishing with Mr. George Strong. I fished one summer with him, catching fish (cod) and turbot using trawls. We would row out in the morning and evening in a small punt.
- 1911 I went fishing with Mr. George Jacobs. My part of the fish was one fish out of three caught. 1912 I went fishing with Mr. George Strong again. He was an old man, I fished with him just that summer.
- 1913 – 1914 I went fishing with Mr. Joseph Martin up to Petty Harbour.
- 1915 I went fishing on the Labrador with Mr. Ebenezer Smith in the schooner Twilight.
- 1916 I went fishing with uncle John Drodge on the Labrador in the St. Joseph. We caught our fish in Bateau.
- 1917 – 1918 I went fishing with Uncle George Norris in the Pioneer.
- 1919 I went fishing in St. John's in my own motor boat.
- 1920 I went fishing in St. John's with Uncle John Norris, Uncle Stephen Holloway. We had the schooner Evelyn.
- 1921 My brother John and I went fishing on the Labrador.
- 1922 We fished on the Southern Shore.
- 1923 We went to St. John's and that fall we gave up the Evelyn.
- 1924 - 1925 I went fishing with Uncle Harry Norris in the Hilda Blanche in St. John's. That Fall I worked in the woods at South Brook. I worked until January 1925. I came home and got married on January 14<sup>th</sup>. 1925.
- 1926 I went to St. John's fishing with brothers John and Jim and Uncle George Norris in the schooner Wellington.
- 1927 We went fishing on the Labrador and caught our fish in Grady.
- 1928 I fished in St. John's on Pond's Room on the Southside in the Wellington.
- 1929 I went lobster fishing with Mr. Jonah Soper. Sam Soper and I also fished at home.
- 1930 I fished on the Labrador.
- 1931 I fished at home.
- 1932 I fished in St. John's.
- 1933 I fished at home.
- 1934 I fished on the Labrador.
- 1935 I fished in St. John's with Solomon Drodge.
- 1936 I fished at home.
- 1937 – 1939 I went fishing with Mr. Eli Drodge in the Ivy Frances.
- 1940 – 1941 My son Bill and I fished at home.
- 1942 - 1944 I went fishing with Mr. Eli Drodge in the Ivy Frances.
- 1945 I went to St. John's fishing with Joshua Norris. We had three traps and stayed at the Bursery's Room, Outer Battery. We salted our fish and Titus Spurrell brought it home and carried it back to St. John's in the fall.
- 1946 Ches Dodge, Ron Dodge and I had the H.L. Bailey.
- 1947 – 1948 We fished in St. John's.
- 1949 I went fishing on the Labrador in the Ivy B. Melvin (A schooner that I built.)
- 1950 – 1952 We fished in St. John's.

1953            We fished at home and sold the schooner.  
1954 – 1957   We fished at home.  
1958            We fished in Dildo.  
1959 – 1963   We fished at home.  
1964            We fished in St. John's on the Long-liner Halford - Robert - Lawrence.  
1965 – 1966   We fished at home  
1967            We fished at Grate's Cove.  
1968            We fished in St. John's.  
1969 – 1972   We fished at home.  
1973 – 1976   Lobster fishing

Over his lifetime he built 29 motorboats and punts.

He also built 1 Schooner which was 60.9 ton – Ivy B. Melvin

He built 1 Long-liner – Halford-Robert-Lawrence. (As shown below)

In his early nineties, he built 2 model schooners.





# History Of The Dodge Surname

## The Ancient History of the Distinguished Surname “DODGE”



### Dodge Coat of Arms

The history of the most ancient Anglo/Saxon surname of Dodge reaches far into the chronicles of the Saxon race. The Saxon Chronicles, compiled by monks in the 10<sup>th</sup> century, are now in the British Museum.

History researchers have examined reproductions of such manuscripts. They found the first record of the name Dodge in Lancashire where they were seated from very early times.

The Saxon race gave birth to many English surnames, not the least of which was the surname Dodge. The Saxons were invited into England by the ancient Britons of the 4<sup>th</sup> century. A fair skinned people, their home was on the Rhine valley, some as far north east as Denmark.

Nevertheless, this notable English family name, Dodge, emerged as an influential name in the county of Lancashire. The family name first acquired manors and estates in the county of Lancashire when Arnold Dodge settled in the year 1196, and later Wigot Dodge settled in the same county in the year of 1214.

The surname Dodge flourished during the turbulent middle ages, contributing greatly to the culture and development of England. Due to the rise of Protestantism, the newly formed fervour of Cromwellianism, many were persecuted for their faith which forced them to move. Some families were forced to migrate to Ireland and other areas. Protestant settlers undertook to keep their faith, and were given grants of land.

The New World offered better opportunities. Members of the Dodge family sailed aboard the huge armada of three masted sailing ships, known as the “White Sails” which plied the stormy Atlantic. These overcrowded ships such as the Hector, the Dove and the Rambler, were pestilence ridden, sometimes 30% to 40% of the passenger list never reached their destination.

Among the first settlers in North America, which could be considered a kinsman of the surname Dodge was William Dodge who arrived in 1623 on the sailing ship the “Lion’s Whelp”. He settled in Salem, Massachusetts. His brother, Richard Dodge, also settled in Salem seven years later. The name DODGE is a surname from England, They were found in Devon and Christchurch. They came to the United States, Halifax, and Newfoundland. In early instances they were found in English Harbour, Fortune, Fox Harbour, (now South Port). Some settled in Gooseberry Cove where Robert Dodge was born. He was Pop’s father. Later some moved to Little Heart’s Ease. Today they are found in St. John’s, Conception Bay South, and Fortune Bay- Hermitage district, and Stephenville.

During the course of research it was determined the many Coat of Arms were granted to different branches of the Dodge family.

The most ancient grant of a Coat of Arms found was: Black and gold stripes, with a red vertical stripe on which there was an eye weeping. The Crest is a Seadog.

The Latin words **Leni Perfruar Otio** means “**Let me enjoy gentle ease**”.

Fitting motto for Little Heart’s Ease.

## History Of the Soper Surname

### The Ancient History of the Distinguished Surname “Soper”



This surname of SOPER was derived from the Old French word 'sape'. It was a name of two-fold origin, meaning a maker and seller of soap, or a name for a dweller at a marshy swamp. The name has spread widely in many forms which include SOPP, SAPP, SAPPET and SOPPE. During the 17th century surnames were brought to Britain, North America and southern Africa by French Huguenot exiles. The Huguenots were French Protestants, and in 1572 large numbers of them were massacred in Paris on the orders of Queen Catherine de'Medici. Many of the survivors sought refuge in England and elsewhere.

Although the Edict of Nantes (1598) officially guaranteed religious toleration, persecution continued, and the Edict was revoked by Louis XIV in 1685. It was then the trickle of emigration became a flood. Many migrated to England, while others joined groups of Dutch Protestants settling around the Cape of Good Hope.

Others sailed across the Atlantic to establish themselves in North America. Early records of the name mention Edgar le SOPPIER, 1138, County Northumberland; William SOPER, 1195, Glamorgan; Roger SAPERE was recorded in the year 1243 in County Durham and Emma la SAPERE appears in the year 1301 in County Surrey. The name arrived in Australia at an early date. In 1851 the gold rush in New South Wales hit the region, and the effect on the whole of Australia was so great that it heralded a new era. Ships carrying new prospectors arrived daily from continental Europe, America and China.

It has long been a matter of doubt when the bearing of coats of arms first became hereditary and it was not until the Crusades that Heraldry came into general use. Men went into battle heavily armed and were difficult to recognise. It became the custom for them to adorn their helmets with distinctive crests, and to paint their shields with animals and the like. Coats of arms accompanied the development of surnames, becoming hereditary in the same way. Most of the European surnames were formed in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries. The process had started somewhat earlier and had continued in some places into the 19th century, but the norm is that in the tenth and eleventh centuries people did not have surnames, whereas by the fifteenth century most of the population had acquired a second name.

Soper is a surname of England and Jersey. The name means a maker of soap. They were traced by Guppy in Devon.

There were a number of names of Sopers who came from England to the New World. Thomas, 1760, was a boat builder and settled in Halifax, NS. John Soper, a planter, came and settled in Hants Harbour. He was a medical doctor. We are his descendants.

Today there are Sopers in Hants Harbour and St. John's. John married and settled in Hants Harbour. One of his son's named Henry settled in Old Shop and married Elizabeth Reid. One of Henry's sons was Jonah. He grew up and settled in House Cove. He married Margaret Price. One of their daughters was Sarah Elizabeth who married William Henry Dodge of Little Harbour, TB. Of course both of them are our parents.

**A picture is worth a thousand words.**



*Grandfather Robert Dodge*



*Grandmother Mary Elizabeth (Norris)*



*William Henry Dodge*



*James Dodge*



*John Dodge*



*Mary Jane—wife of John*



*Kenneth Bailey*



*Priscella Bailey (Dodge)*



*Jonah Soper*



*Margaret Soper (Price)*



*Sarah E. Dodge ( Soper)*



*Aunt Martha and Uncle Nick Avery*



*Uncle Grenfield Soper*



*Uncle William Soper*

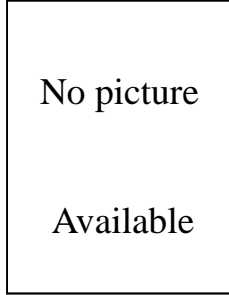


*Uncle Elijah and Aunt Annie Soper*

## Pop and Mom's Children



Jonah



No picture

Available

Robert Lester



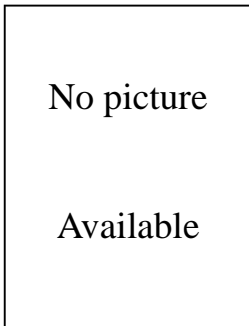
William (Bill)



Ivy



Eric



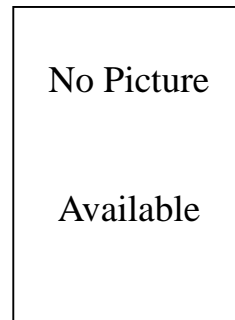
No picture

Available

Robert Lawrence



Winston



No Picture

Available

Melvin



Pop as a member in the Royal Orange and Royal Black Preceptory Lodge



Pop in his room at the Glenbrook Lodge



Cars and the old barn



Looking out the harbour



Boat coming in between Billy's  
Rock



Our house with the Christmas lights



A Tilley Lantern



Fish drying on a flake



Aunt Mahalla Drodge, Pop's Aunt



Janie Anstey (Norris) Uncle Jim, Grandmother Dodge and Janie



Bill and Cyril Dodge on a schooner



Pop and Mom's 50th Wedding Anniversary



Pop and Mom watering the garden



Mom's Geese



Fish on Pop's wharf





Mom's Roses



Mom's Cabbage



Old wooden plane like Pop used in his early days.



Grandfather and Grandmother Soper in House Cove



Some of Pop's Lobsters for Ivy



Mom & Pop in their younger days



Mom's glass rolling pin and cook book



Grandfather Soper, and his grandchildren and great-grand children



Spoke shave and draw knife



Pulling in Uncle Elijah's house to Little Heart's Ease from House Cove



Our Mother, Sarah Dodge



Great Grandmother Susanne Dodge wife of Matthias Dodge



Our father, William Henry Dodge



Robert and Mary Dodge



Pop's Cousin, Janie Dodge



(L to R): Ches Avery, Cousin, Winston with Diane, Eric and Cecil Stringer



Horses on harbour ice



(L to R) Winston, Ivy, Melvin, Eric, Bill, Jonah and Pop.



Pop standing by a boat that he built.



Pop at a steering wheel



Pop's 93rd. Birthday



Pop and Mom in Terra Nova Park



A washing machine like the one Mom had.



This would be attached to a tub to wring out the wet clothes. Similar to the one Mom had.



One of the many brewis net bags Pop did to put the hard bread in to cook.



Pop and Mom aboard the Ferry William Carson going to Sydney, NS.

# I Do

1894 MARRIAGE solemnized In Mr Benson's House Very full  
in the Diocese of Newfoundland

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the Time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
15	Dec 26 <sup>th</sup> 1894	Robert Dodge	24	Bachelor	Fisherman	Little Harbour	Mathias Dodge	Fisher
		Elizabeth Norris	23	Spinster	"	"	James Norris	"

Married in the Mr Benson's house according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Church of England  
by me Henry Pelley

This Marriage was solemnized between us,  
Robert Dodge his X mark  
Elizabeth Norris her X mark  
in the Presence of us,  
William Henry Norris + Emma Jane Dodge  
John Crossway + Asahel Dodge

Copy of William Henry Dodge's parents marriage from church records

Marriage Solemnized at Hodges Cove in the Mission of Randon in the Diocese of Newfoundland.

No.	When Married	Name and Surname	Age	Condition	Rank or Profession	Residence at the Time of Marriage	Father's Name and Surname	Rank or Profession of Father
247	Jan'y 14 <sup>th</sup> 1925	William Henry Dodge	26	Bachelor	Fisherman	Little Hr	Robt. Dodge	Fisherman
		Sarah Lopez	24	Spinster	"	St. John's	Jonah Lopez	Fisherman

Married in the Church of St. Margaret's according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Church of England.  
By me Wm B. Way (Priest)

This Marriage was solemnized between us,  
William Henry Dodge  
Sarah Lopez  
in the presence of us,  
Samuel Lopez  
Elizabeth Lopez

Copy of William Henry and Sarah Dodge's Marriage from church records

## **Tribute to Mommy Dodge**

By Granddaughter, Ivy Eriksen

When our Pastor suggested we share with the congregation our story of a dearly departed person and also share how they helped us grow in our Christian faith I immediately thought of my grandmother.

Sarah Elizabeth Dodge (lovingly known to her grandchildren as Mommy Dodge), played a very important part in my life from infancy. Although she left this earth on August 26, 1976, she left me with the peace of knowing she went to be with her Lord. My grandmother loved her Saviour and lived her life always striving to do His will because of the love she had for Christ.

I was truly blessed by being able to spend many of my early years with my grandmother. Whenever she tucked me into bed at night she would always kneel at the side of my bed and teach me the Lords Prayer, and then together we would ask God to bless each family member, naming them one by one. She taught me not only to sing Jesus Loves Me, but also taught me that Jesus truly loved me, always.

Her compassion and generosity reached out to the whole community. Sharing meals with less fortunate families, helping whenever the need arose, always thinking of others. Never expecting anything in return, she gave freely just as Christ gave freely for us.

During my teenage years our family moved to Ontario and away from our grandparents. My grandmother and I corresponded on a regular basis. Her letters were always filled with love. She was always interested in knowing what was happening in my life. Her writing to me during that period of my life was instrumental in keeping me on the 'straight and narrow', during a period of time when daily temptations in a Toronto High School environment was far from a Christian way of life, and especially not anything my grandmother would have approved of. I know she kept me in her prayers and although I didn't realize it at the time God was answering her prayers and watching over me.

My grandmother was truly a blessing in my life. I was saddened when she died, but at the same time remembered comforting words my grandmother used often, "Thy will be done".

Thank you God for working through my grandmother to bring Christ into my life.

Ivy (Dodge) Eriksen

P.S. This was presented at Ivy's church a few years ago, as a tribute to her grandmother, Mommy Dodge

## Tribute To Poppy Dodge

By Grandson Brian Dodge

grandfather

there comes a time when things must change  
and one's life, it must move on  
when one's soul moves to a higher place  
where his heart can do no wrong

but to live a life as great as his  
full of peace and happiness  
knowledge and truth were his greatest gift  
it is these we'll surely miss

when we look back on his many years  
we know that he's done good  
he left this world so peacefully  
and he's going where he should

though his passing is a sad one  
and we will shed many tears  
we are happy to be part of his life  
william H. Dodge of 96 years.

in memory of William Henry Dodge "Pop"  
May 17, 1897 - Dec. 31, 1993.

## A Tribute to our Dad, William Henry Dodge



At the closing hours of 1993, Pop put down his anchor and is now resting in the 'Haven of Rest.'

Pop lived a long and happy life, and will be remembered by many people for a number of different reasons. Right up to his last moments, he was able to talk clearly and always had something interesting to say.

Pop was a wonderful father and a devoted grandfather to his many grandchildren, who lived near and far. He was also a devoted and special husband to Mom and after sharing over 51 years together, she passed away in August, 1976. For another 17 years, he bravely carried on, and led a productive life right up to the last day. We could never measure the number of balls of twine that he has knitted during his life time. Quite a number of people have some little thing to keep in his memory, whether it be a small cast net or a 'brewis net'.

The grandchildren speak very lovingly about him. "He was always there for us." "He was a friend to everybody." "He was the type of grandfather that every child would be blessed and privileged to call "Poppy"

For the past five and one half years, he lived at the Glenbrook Lodge in St. John's. Everyone there who had gotten to know him, was blessed by his 'happy countenance', and 'his positive disposition'. He always had a good word to say to all. They will miss him.

Another thing we will miss is not having Pop around to set us straight on some date, or somebody's name. Whenever there was any doubt or question about some event in the past, we would just ask Pop, and he could tell us when it happened, even what kind of a day it was. He could go on to tell us about the people in question; who they married and the names of the rest of the family members.

He could tell stories like nobody else could. He could take you down to the Labrador Coast and back again, before you realized it.

He was an authority on so many things. He was a self-made man, having started fishing at the age of 11. By the time he was in his early 20's, having done well, he was the Captain or Skipper of a schooner.

I have been away for a number of years and not able to do as much as I would have liked to have done for him. But Pop had many people around him who gave him much tender loving care. Bill and Jonah and their families were always there for him, and were able to spend many hours, chatting or keeping him company, or sharing a cup of tea or a meal that pop had cooked.

Melvin will miss dropping in to the Glenbrook Lodge on Mondays for a coffee (and a tea for Pop), after he bought a donut and a muffin for a treat. They shared great times together.

Eric will miss his visits with Pop as they kept each other informed about what was happening with the Loyal Orange Lodge. Both of them were faithful members for quite a number of years. In fact, when Pop was over 90, he was elected to be the visiting officer for his local lodge.

On behalf of the brothers and their families, I would like to say a special thank you to our sister Ivy. She has been there with Pop and cared for him in a very loving way. She also cared for Mom until her passing. Ivy hasn't taken a holiday for a long, long time, because she didn't want to leave Pop. She was there to the very end. Thank you Ivy. We appreciate all that you have done. Nobody could ask for a better sister or daughter. You are special.

Today, in our album of memories, we have many pictures, which we will cherish always in our hearts. They will always bring a warm feeling within our hearts and a smile to our faces.

Pop, we love you. Mom, we love you and now you are both spending eternity together with God.

God bless you both.

This tribute was given by son Winston at Pop's funeral service at The Salvation Army in Little Heart's Ease on January 2nd, 1994.



## William Henry and Sarah Dodge's Genealogy

- Jonah**
- Wife Clarbelle (King)
  - **Children**
  - Juanita
  - Halford (Hal)
  - Sharon
- 
- 2nd wife Ann (Seward)
  - **Children**
  - Perry
  - Melvin
  - Brian
  - Susanne
  - Marshall
- William (Bill)**
- Wife Jean (Hiscock)
  - **Children**
  - Robert
- Robert Lester**
- **Deceased as a baby**
- Ivy**
- Eric**
- Wife Frances (Pitcher)
  - **Children**
  - Ivy
  - Diane
  - Bernice
  - Lawrence (Larry)
  - Jean
  - Sylvia
- 
- 2nd. Wife Amy
- Robert Lawrence**
- **Deceased as a baby**
- Winston**
- Wife Cora
  - **Children**
  - Stephen
  - Coralie
- Melvin**
- Wife Juanita
  - **Children**
  - Tammy
  - Bradley

**Jonah Dodge**

**-Halford (Hal)**

- Kirk
- Hennessey
- Zackery

- Kelly
- Jasman
- Amber
- Samantha

**- Melvin Jr.**

**- Brian**

- Mackenzie
- Samuel (Sam)

**- Juanita**

- Lenore
- Emma Ray
- Caleb

- Jeniffer
- Olivia
- Callum

- Aimee
- Houston

**- Sharon**

- Ryan
- Brittany
- Brandon

**- Susanne**

- Brooklyn
- Brady

**- Marshall**

**- Perry**

- Aaron
- Amber

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**William (Bill) Dodge**

**- Robert**

- Jenay

\*\*\*\*\*

**Ivy**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Eric Dodge**

**- Ivy**

- Mark
- Julia
- Jakob

**- Diane**

- Ken
- Brendan
- Evan

- Tim
- Eric Clayton

- Kelly

- Charles

**- Bernice**

- Jason
- Tanner
- Carter

**- James**

- Ben
- Grace
- Ava
- Benson

**- Lawrence (Larry)**

- Ainsley

**- Jean**

- Julie
- Avery
- Aubree
- Caden

- Shane

**- Sylvia**

- Sherry
- Isaiah
- Travis
- Noah

- Michael
- Mercedes
- Michaela
- Devon
- Mackenzie

- Kimberly

**Winston Dodge**

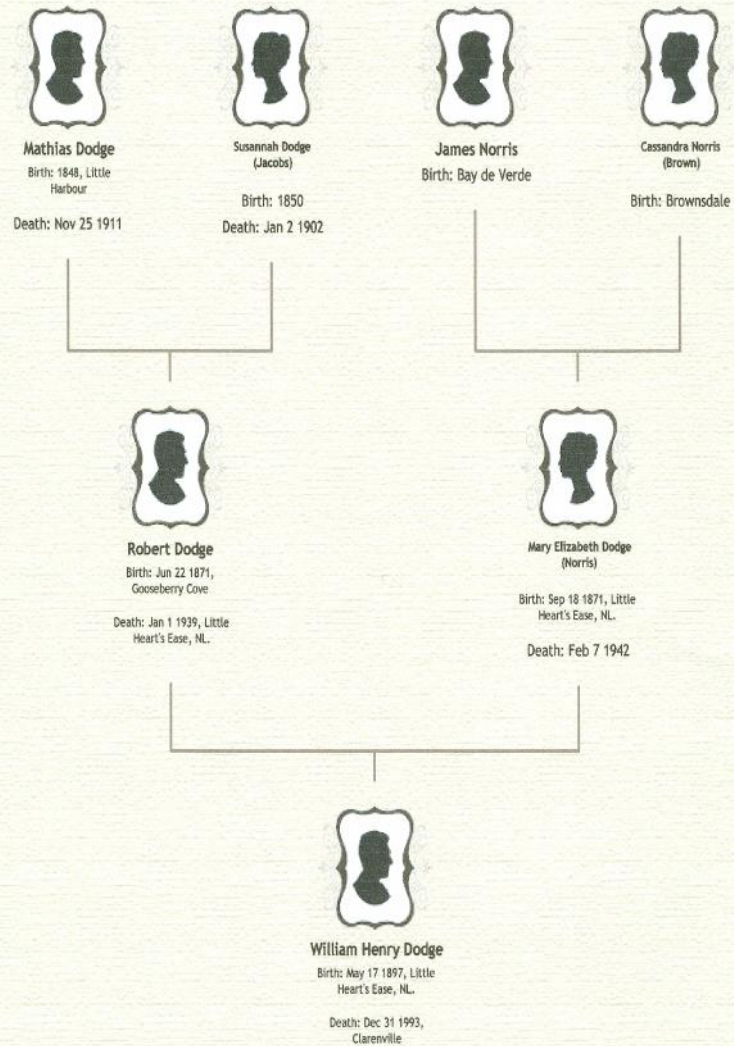
- Stephen
- Coralie

**Melvin Dodge**

- Tammy
  - Madison
  - Logan
- Bradley



# Ancestors of William Henry Dodge



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# Ancestors of Sarah Elizabeth Dodge [Soper]



**Henry Soper**  
Birth: Jun 17 1830, Hant's Harbour

Death: Aug 13 1901, UC Cemetary LHE



**Margaret Soper (Reid)**  
Death: UC Cemetary, LHE



**Jonah Soper**  
Birth: Mar 20 1876, Old Shop, NL.

Death: Nov 18 1957, UC Cemetary LHE



**Margaret Soper**  
Birth: Jan 1879, Loubourn, NL.

Death: May 8 1951



**Sarah Elizabeth Dodge (Soper)**

Birth: Jun 10 1901, House Cove

Death: Aug 26 1976, Little Heart's Ease, NL.



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9. Church Records
10. Family Names from the Island of Newfoundland by E.R Searle—1998
11. Winston Dodge (Information I collected over the years)
12. Information recorded at church cemeteries



## **Acknowledgements**

I would like to thank my sister Ivy for the many pictures and stories that she submitted. I would like also to thank my brothers Eric for his story about fishing in Labrador and Melvin for his pictures.

I am grateful for the information that I gleaned from our brothers Jonah and Bill before they passed away. They shared many stories of Mom and Pop about their way of life.

I would also like to thank my wife Cora for her typing, editing, helpfulness and support in setting the stage for this booklet. Without her help this booklet may not have been possible.

Also thank you to my friend, Major Ira Barrow for his proofreading, editing and helpful suggestions.



## **We Will Remember Them.**

*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:  
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning  
We will remember them.*



**Sunset at Little Harbour, T.B.**

Compiled by Winston Dodge  
2012